

Public Notice

Conference call about reductions to optional Medicaid services

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is planning to reduce or eliminate certain optional Medicaid services in order to limit expenditures. Interested parties are invited to join a conference call on January 12, 2011 to find out more. To see a list of pending service changes, visit www.scdhhs.gov.

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Call Toll Free 1-866-550-4821
Conference ID # 34256162

Medicaid

Mark Sanford, Governor • Emma Fortner, DHHS Director
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services



Dear Medicaid Beneficiary,

The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services must make changes to the Medicaid program because it no longer has enough funds to continue to offer the same services. We regret if any of these changes cause you difficulties. Many of the following changes may not affect you. Please read the entire newsletter carefully and call the Medicaid Resource Center at 1-888-549-0820 if you have any questions.

SERVICES TO BE ELIMINATED

Effective February 1, 2011, the following services will no longer be offered through Medicaid:

- Podiatry services for people 21 and older
- Vision services for people 21 and older
- Dental services for people 21 and older
- Hospice care services for people 21 and older
- Coverage of routine newborn circumcisions

SERVICES TO BE REDUCED

Also effective February 1, 2011, the following services will be reduced in scope:

- One pair diabetic shoes a year instead of two
- Home health visits reduced to 50 visits per year instead 75
- Individuals under 21 years of age can receive a combined total of 75 visits per year for private rehabilitative services (speech and language therapy, occupational therapy or physical therapy)
- Chiropractic services will be reduced to six visits per year instead of eight

CO-PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS

Beginning April 1, 2011, the Medicaid program will increase the small part of your medical bill that you must pay for some services, called a co-payment. The provider will tell you when you need to make a co-payment. The new co-payment schedule is listed below:

	Old	New
Office Visits	\$2.00	\$2.30
<i>(Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Licensed Medical)</i>		
Chiropractor	\$1.00	\$1.15
Home Health	\$2.00	\$2.30
Clinic Visits	\$2.00	\$2.30
Prescription Drugs	\$3.00	\$3.40
Outpatient Hospital	\$3.00	\$3.40
Medical Equipment/Supplies	\$0-3.00	\$.60-3.40

The following Medicaid beneficiaries do not have to make co-payments:

- Children under 19 years of age
- Pregnant women
- Individuals receiving Family Planning services
- Institutionalized individuals
- Individuals receiving emergency services
- Federally recognized Native Americans

For Community Long-Term Care Waiver Beneficiaries Only

Effective April 1, 2011, the following Community Long Term Care services will no longer be offered through Medicaid:

- Chore service
- Appliance service
- Nutritional supplements
- Adult day health care nursing service
- Respite service

The following service reduction is effective April 1, 2011:

- Home-delivered meals will be reduced to 10 per week instead of 14

If you feel this action is taken in error, you may ask for a fair hearing before the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. To ask for a fair hearing, send a request in writing within 30 days of the date of this letter.

You can hire an attorney to help you or you can have someone come to the hearing and speak for you. If you request a hearing before the date of action your Medicaid benefits will continue until a ruling is made by the hearing officer. Please note, if the hearing officer does not rule in your favor, you will be required to pay back any Medicaid benefits you received while your case was being reviewed.

EPSDT Notice

Medicaid offers a screening, diagnosis, and treatment program called EPSDT. EPSDT stands for Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment. It is important for your child to have these regular well-child visits with his/her doctor so that medical problems may be found and treated. If you have a doctor for your child, call and make an appointment for a screening. If you need help finding a doctor, please call your local health department, or check our website at www.scdhhs.gov. If you do not know your local health departments phone number, call the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) at 1-800-868-0404.

S.C. Healthy Connections Choices

The way you get Medicaid in South Carolina has changed. Medicaid members may now enroll in a health plan.

A health plan is a group of doctors and may also include hospitals and other staff. Your health plan will make sure you can see the right doctors when you need them. All plans provide the same medical services as Medicaid, but they may also offer extra services, like diabetes or asthma management programs.

You may have already received a packet in the mail from South Carolina Healthy Connections Choices. It is very important that you read it. If you don't choose a plan, we may choose a plan for you.

If you go to a doctor you want to continue to see, you can call 1-877-552-4642 or visit www.schoices.com to find out what plan he or she belongs to. You can call at anytime. Don't wait – enroll with a plan now.

Keep Your Benefits

Medicaid requires each beneficiary to complete a review form at certain times. Some people may need to fill out a form every three months, and others may only need to fill one out every year.

When it is time for your review, we will mail you a form called the Medicaid Review Form. This form will tell you what information you must return to us. We may need to know how much money you earn, what property you own, or if you have childcare expenses. You must answer all the questions on the form and sign it. It is important that you mail this form back to the address listed on the form, and mail it back by the due date. If you fail to return your Medicaid Review Form on time, your Medicaid benefits will end. If you have questions, please call 1-888-549-0820.

En Espanol

Si necesita esta boletín informativo de Medicaid en español, por favor llame a la oficina de Medicaid al 1-888-549-0820. La llamada es gratuita.

SCHIEX Notice

Your health and the care you receive are very important to us.

That is why we are participating in a statewide computer system called the South Carolina

SCHIEX

Health Information Exchange

(SCHIEX). This computer system can help the doctors you work with give you better care. SCHIEX is a statewide effort that lets doctors look-up your health facts for treatment purposes over a secure web site. Your health record contains facts like your name and date of birth, and data about medical services and care you have received.

Because your privacy is very important, only approved users such as doctors and medical staff can access

SCHIEX. They must have an ID to see information about you. All users must agree to keep your health facts private, and must follow all federal and state privacy laws.

While we hope you will participate in SCHIEX, it is not required. You may choose to stop at any time.

Before deciding to stop, please keep in mind that data in SCHIEX can help you and your doctor make better choices about your care.

If you do not want doctors to see your health facts, or have questions, please call the Resource Center at 1-888-549-0820. Or, you may view a demonstration and get more information at www.schiex.org.

Questions?

Call the Resource Center

Monday through Friday 8 a.m - 5 p.m. at

1-888-549-0820

if you have any questions.

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